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Recommended Citation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Current Forest Industries Information System releases second quarter results" (1982). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 7827.

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MEDIA RELEASE

bber/rv
9/30/82
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CURRENT FOREST INDUSTRIES INFORMATION SYSTEM RELEASES SECOND QUARTER RESULTS

MISSOULA--

The latest figures from the Current Forest Industries Information System indicated continuing low levels of production in Montana, but some increase in both employment and production for the industry in the second quarter of the year.

The System is sponsored by the Montana Wood Products Association and conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana. The results show that all the major sectors of Montana's wood products industry operated at below normal levels from January to July of this year.

Normal production is the production level expected from these mills in a year when there are 1.5 million housing starts nationwide. This year less than one million housing starts are anticipated.

Output from Montana's sawmills, the major sector of the industry, was very low for the first six months of 1982. Lumber production for the state's 25 largest sawmills from Jan. 1 to June 30 was 72 percent of normal and only 61 percent of stated capacity. These mills produced 401 MMBF of lumber, 154 MMBF below the normal level. The sawmills studied generally account for 85 to 90 percent of Montana's lumber production.

The state's four plywood plants produced at about 92 percent of normal levels. Pulp and paper, fiberboard, and particleboard plants are also registered below normal production.

forest industries--add one

Of the 36 manufacturing plants of all types included in the system for the second quarter of '82, at least 14 operated at normal levels in June with 12 at normal production levels in April and May. This is an improvement over the revised first quarter figures which showed only 6 of 36 plants were at normal levels in each month.

The number of full-time production workers was higher in the second quarter, though still well below normal. Given the current structure of the industry and based on a normal year--again one with 1.5 million housing starts nationwide--the 36 plants surveyed in the second quarter would employ 4,882 full-time production workers. The number of actual production employees was 3,806 for April, 4,018 for May, and 4,022 for June. In addition to the drop in employment about 1,250 of the workers were on reduced work schedules for the second quarter.

During the first quarter of 1982, production employment averaged just over 3,200 employees at the 36 mills, with about 1,400 employees on reduced work schedules.

The Bureau notes that these employment figures refer only to production workers at mill sites. Not included are the several thousand workers in logging, transport and other related areas .

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NOTE: Table enclosed.

THE MONTANA WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY
SECOND QUARTER 1982

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Number of mills	36	36	36
Not producing	9	4	3
Operating at reduced levels	15	20	19
Operating at normal levels	12	12	14

Production Workers

Expected employment under normal conditions	4,882	4,882	4,882
Number employed	3,806	4,018	4,022
Number on curtailed hours	1,351	1,293	1,126
Estimated number of jobs lost	1,076	864	860

Source: University of Montana, Bureau of Business and Economic Research,
Forest Industries Information System (Missoula, Montana, 1982).

Note: The thirty-six mills included in the report account for
over 90 percent of the total production of wood products
in the state. Normal conditions are defined as a year such as 1976
when there were 1.5 million new housing starts in the United States.